

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Border Patrol - Laredo Sector
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NEWS RELEASE

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Border Patrol Marijuana Seizures reach record totals

Laredo Sector seizures surpass 78,000 pounds for FY '03

LAREDO, Texas – The Laredo Sector Border Patrol today released preliminary figures for marijuana seizures during November 2003, that bring the Fiscal Year total marijuana seizures to more than 78,000 pounds.

During November, preliminary figures indicate Laredo Sector Agents seized 47,789 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$38,231,200. “Our fiscal year total reflects an average of 1,285 pounds of marijuana is seized daily at the Laredo Sector,” stated Laredo Sector Chief Patrol Agent John W. Montoya.

For Fiscal Year 2003, the Laredo Sector marijuana seizures have increased 153% over the same period last year. Marijuana seizures have totaled 78,435 pounds with an estimated value of \$62,748,000. The increase in drug seizures in the Laredo Sector is the result of effective Border Patrol enforcement strategies along the Southwest border that are forcing smuggling organizations to use other areas to try to introduce their narcotics into the United States. At present time, the Laredo Sector leads the nation’s Border Patrol Sectors in marijuana seizures, according to Chief Montoya.

The Border Patrol Fiscal Year 2003 commenced on Oct. 1, 2002, and ends on Sept. 30, 2003.

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